

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2011

9:15 AM

NRCS - 60 Quaker Lane – Warwick, RI

Vice Chair Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

Present: Ken Ayars, RI DEM; Phou Vongkhamdy, NRCS; Emerson Wildes, Jessica Blackledge, ERICD; Paul Dolan, Gina DeMarco, NRICD; Clarkson Collins, Doug McGovern, SRICD; Dick Went, RIACD; Ramona LeBlanc, SCC.

I. Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2011 meeting: Ken/Emerson: unanimous.

II. Financial Reports

A motion was made that the SCC is in receipt of the Financial Report: Ken/Emerson: unanimous.

III. Old Business:

A. FFOS:

**Ag Techs will soon begin site visits for farm conservation plans.
A condensed template for the plans is being reviewed by NRCS.
Updated contact info for Conservation Districts will be posted on
DEM website.
DEM is printing the Resource Guides.**

B. NRCS Agreements:

1. Ag Inventory/ Biosecurity:

**Data is being compiled for the Final Report which is due to DEM on
March 31, 2011.**

**NRCS agreement continues to September 30, 2011 and the remaining
funds will be used to target forest owners and nurseries.**

**There is a meeting on April 1, 2011 to establish policy on data
sharing.**

**APHIS has indicated that funding will not be forthcoming in the next
fiscal year.**

2. Geese Abatement:

**Two public and one municipal workshops have been held in ERICD.
Due to limited public response, the outreach will likely be broadened
to the whole state.**

One of the two scheduled Volunteer Trainings has been held.

C. MOU with Districts:

**Both SRICD and NRICD have requested changes to the draft MOU.
A modified version will be distributed for review.**

D. Legislative Outreach:

Meeting with DEM Director Coit will be put on hold until a future date.

IV. New Business:

A. Ag Tech/Outreach Agreement with NRCS:

A three part agreement with NRCS is close to being signed.

It will cover a series of outreach workshops to be held in each Conservation District, the development and implementation of a single database for NRCS contacts and having the Ag Techs perform follow-up with existing and potential NRCS contracts.

B. Revised Budget:

A motion was made that the SCC is in receipt of a revised budget:

Ken/Emerson: unanimous.

C. RIACD Travel Stipend:

A motion was made to issue \$485.00 to RIACD as a travel stipend for the Chair's expenses for the Legislative Meeting in Washington, DC:

Emerson/Ken: unanimous.

D. Strategic Plan:

RC&D Council offered to apply for a RI Foundation grant to fund Strategic Plan development for each Conservation District.

A motion was made to pursue this grant: Ken/Emerson: unanimous.

V. Reports:

A. Chair: Nothing to report.

B. Districts/ Advisors:

1. DEM:

The Agricultural Partnership 5 year plan will be unveiled at Ag Day on May 12, 2011.

2. NRCS:

Written report was distributed.

3. URI:

Small Farm Dream series is being conducted for a second year.

On April 12, 2011 a Twilight Meeting to discuss high tunnels will be held.

4. RIACD:

NELM is on March 23 & 24, 2011.

Dick is scheduling meetings with the congressional delegation.

5. ERICD:

Jessica Blackledge has been hired as project manager.

A new phone line has been installed. The new number is 301-816-5667.

6. SRICD:

Doug has been working on Geese Abatement and Ag Inventory agreements.

SRICD will be doing GIS mapping of wetlands at Canonchet Farm and is discussing GIS mapping with the Narrow River Land Trust.

7. NRICD:

Office has moved to 2283 Hartford Ave in Johnston.

Open houses will be held on May 21, 2011 in conjunction with RIFCO Trail Day and on May 25, 2011.

Seedling sale will be held on April 22 & 23, 2011.

Gina has submitted a proposal to Lorraine Joubert at URI to do elementary school outreach statewide as part of a storm water grant.

VI. Other:

A motion was made to grant RI Envirothon's request for a donation in the amount of \$500.00: Emerson/Ken: unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.